OHNISHI
Application No. 09/809,095
Response to Office Action dated April 6, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An operation method for processing data files, comprising:

(a) displaying for each of one or more data files a reduced-size image/file icon pair, wherein the reduced-size image is for use in identifying the contents of the data file and the corresponding concurrently displayed file icon is spaced from, and has a smaller area than, the reduced-size image and wherein the display position of the file icon relative to the display position of the reduced-size image is predetermined to be the same for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs; and

(b) performing at least either one of the operations of i) selecting a function to be applied to one of the data files and ii) changing a display position of one of the reduced-size images by a drag-and-drop operation on the corresponding file icon.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

in step (b), the reduced-size image is fixed at a current position while a drag operation on the file icon is being performed at a predetermined speed or higher; and, when the drag speed is reduced below the predetermined speed, a frame having the size of the reduced size image is displayed.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

in step (b), when the file icon is dropped at a position where no function icon representing a kind of a function to be applied to the data file is displayed, a display position of

the corresponding reduced-size image is changed by moving the corresponding reduced-size image to a position at a predetermined interval from a dropped portion of the file icon.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 3, wherein:

the reduced-size image is displayed in an area on the opposite side of a moving region of the file icon where the file icon is moved to a display position of a function icon.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

in step (b), when the file icon has moved to a position more than a predetermined distance apart from the corresponding reduced-size image, an icon return space is displayed at a predetermined fixed interval from the reduced-size image.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

in step (b), when the file icon is dropped in the icon return space, the file icon is moved back to its original display position without moving the associated reduced-size image.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

the icon return space is formed in an outstanding pattern.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

the icon return space is larger in size than the file icon.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

a function icon is displayed with substantially the same size as the file icon when the file icon is displayed.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

a display of one or both of a function icon and an icon return space is changed when the file icon overlaps the function icon when the file icon is dragged.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

the icon return space is displayed in a different manner than the file icon when the file icon has moved to a position at a predetermined position from an original position.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the file icon is displayed adjacent to a side portion of the reduced-size image for each reduced-size image/file icon pair.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A method comprising:

generating a display that comprises a reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of one or more data files, wherein the reduced-size image permits an identification of the contents of the data file and the corresponding concurrently displayed file icon is smaller than, and spaced from, the reduced-sized image and wherein the display position of the file icon relative to the display position of the reduced-size image is predetermined to be the same for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs;

moving one of the reduced-sized images from an original display position in response to user inputs supplied via an input device for moving the file icon corresponding to that reduced-size image from an original display position to another display position; and

processing one of the data files in accordance with a function in response to user inputs supplied via the input device for moving the file icon corresponding to that data file from an original display position to a function-invoking position on the display that invokes the function.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the user inputs for moving the file icon from its original display position to another display position comprise inputs for dragging-and-dropping the file icon.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the reduced-size image is moved from its original position to a position adjacent to the position at which the file icon is dropped.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 13, further comprising:

displaying a file icon return space when the file icon corresponding to one of the data files is moved more than a predetermined distance from its corresponding reduced-size image.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, further comprising:

returning the file icon back to its original display position if the file icon is moved to the file icon return space.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein the file icon return space has a larger area than the file icon.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein a frame representing the reduced-size image moves with the file icon corresponding to one of data files if the file icon is moved at a speed less than a predetermined speed and the reduced-size image remains in its original position if the file icon is moved at a speed greater than the predetermined speed.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the user inputs for moving the file icon to the function-invoking position comprise inputs for dragging-and-dropping the file icon onto one of one of more function icons.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein the one or more function icons have substantially the same size as the file icons.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein the file icon being moved to the function-invoking position is disposed relative to the corresponding reduced-size image so that the file icon is between the function icons and the reduced-sized image.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the function in accordance with which the data file is processed is selected from the group consisting of a printing function, a facsimile function, and an e-mail function.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): An image processing system comprising:

a user input device; and

a processing system for generating a display that comprises a reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of one or more data files, wherein the reduced-size image permits an identification of the contents of the data file and the corresponding concurrently displayed file icon is smaller than, and spaced from, the reduced-size image, and wherein the display position of the file icon relative to the display position of the reduced-size image is predetermined to be the same for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs;

wherein the processing system moves one of the reduced-sized images from an original display position in response to user inputs supplied via the input device for moving the file icon corresponding to that reduced-size image from an original display position to another display position, and

wherein the processing system processes one of the data files in accordance with a function in response to user inputs supplied via the input device for moving the file icon corresponding to that data file from an original display position to a function-invoking position on the display that invokes the function.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A storage device for storing executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

generating a display comprising a reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of a plurality of data files, wherein the reduced-size image for each data file permits an identification of the contents of the data file and the file icon for each data file is smaller than, and spaced from, the reduced-sized image to which the file icon corresponds and wherein the display position of the file icon relative to the display position of the reduced-size image is predetermined to be the same for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs;

moving one of the reduced-sized images from an original display position in response to user inputs supplied via an input device for moving the file icon corresponding to that reduced-size image from an original display position to another display position; and

processing one of the data files in accordance with a function in response to user inputs supplied via the input device for moving the file icon corresponding to that data file from an original display position to a function-invoking position on the display that invokes the function.

Claim 26 (New): A method for processing data files comprising:

displaying file icons corresponding to respective data files in a first area on a display screen, wherein images of contents of the data files are not perceivable from the file icons;

moving the file icons for one or more of the data files to a second area of the display screen;

for the file icons moved to the second area of the display screen, generating thumbnail images of contents of the corresponding data files;

displaying the thumbnail images in the second area of the display screen at positions spaced apart from the file icons; and

moving one or more file icons in the second area of the display screen to a function-invoking area of the display screen to invoke functions on the data files corresponding to the moved file icons.

Claim 27 (New): The method according to claim 26, wherein the function-invoking area comprises function icons for one or more functions.

Claim 28 (New): The method according to claim 26, wherein the first area of the display screen comprises a file folder.

Claim 29 (New): The method according to claim 26,wherein the first area and the second area have a side-by-side relationship.

Claim 30 (New): The method according to claim 26, further comprising:
moving a thumbnail image by moving its corresponding file icon.